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Michigan - Resorts - Early to 1950

SUMMERING

AT

BAY PORT

ON WILD FOWL BAY, LAKE HURON.

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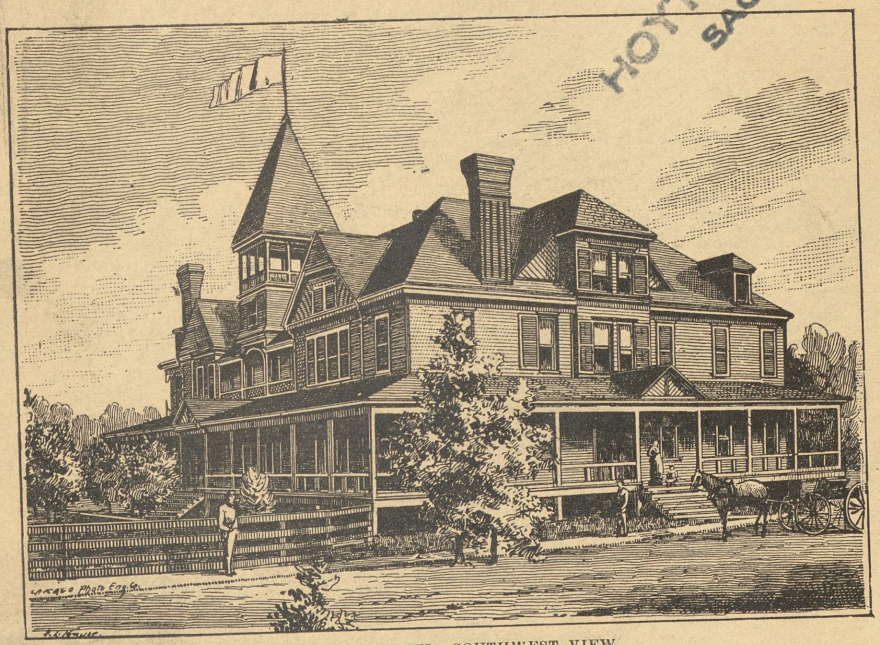

BAY PORT HOTEL.—SOUTHWEST VIEW.

ALSO

SKETCHES OF THE BAY PORT QUARRIES AND HEISTERMAN ISLAND

EAST SAGINAW, MICH.
PUBLISHED BY
The Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron Railroad Co.
May, 1887.

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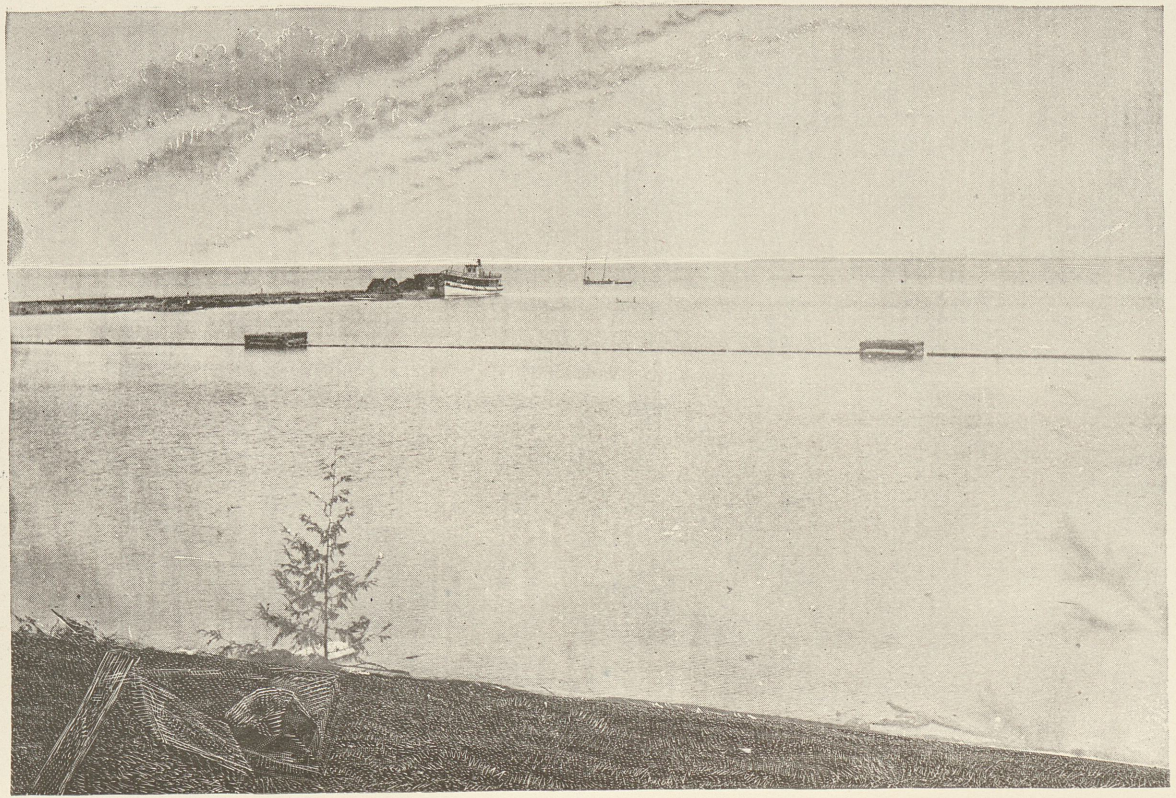
The Summer Vacation.

AMERICANS have been justly criticised for their headlong haste in business pursuits. Once within the whirl of active life, the average man finds little time for recreation and pleasure, until suddenly health and strength give way under the intense pressure of the cares and responsibilities which surround him. But in recent years a spirit of moderation has gained ground, and each succeeding summer finds the exodus of excursionists growing larger, especially from the cities. Nature has provided for frequent resting-times in all forms of life; and it is essential to the strength and healthfulness of both body and mind, that, for a certain season, the strains and turmoils of business should be laid aside, and pleasant recreation sought amidst attractive and restful surroundings. In the search for such a resort the question which most naturally arises is where to secure the most pleasure, comfort and benefit at the least expense. Some will prefer those resorts of gaiety and fashion where expense is no consideration. But the busy workers of the world, who are engrossed with cares day after day, and who wish a real rest, usually select some quiet, secluded, healthful spot, where they can have the comforts of home and yet avoid its perplexing cares.

Michigan as a Summer Resort.

The State of Michigan possesses many delightful spots, where nature has done everything to make them desirable summer resorts, but only a few have been selected and provided with the comforts of civilization. The State is composed of two large peninsulas, almost surrounded by the Great Lakes. Lake Superior, on the north, is the largest body of fresh water in the world. Lake Michigan, on the western side of the Lower Peninsula, is the next in size. Lake Huron, on the north-east, while not quite as large as Lake Michigan, is the deepest of the Great Lakes, the depth off Saginaw Bay being about eighteen hundred feet. These great bodies of water stand at an elevation of nearly six hundred feet above the level of the sea.

Lying in the embrace of these immense seas, the climate of Michigan cannot be excelled. The presence of the large bodies of water has a most remarkable effect in modifying the temperature of the surrounding country, imparting to the atmosphere a fresh, invigorating quality seldom found elsewhere. Within the boundaries of the State are nearly two hundred islands of one acre and upwards in size. The length of the shore line is over sixteen hundred miles, while there are upwards of five thousand smaller lakes in the State, having an aggregate area of seven hundred thousand acres.



WILD FOWL BAY—FROM BANK, NEAR BAY PORT HOTEL.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

BAY PORT, MICH., Sept. 1st, 1894.

The BAY PORT STORE COMPANY has sold its stock and business to its successor, the BAY PORT MERCANTILE COMPANY.

The notes and accounts due to the BAY PORT STORE COMPANY must now be adjusted and paid, and its business closed as soon as possible.

W. L. WEBBER,
W. H. WALLACE.

The BAY PORT MERCANTILE COMPANY, as successor of the BAY PORT STORE COMPANY, invites the patronage of the public. It will carry a larger line of goods than has been heretofore carried, and hopes by careful attention to business, and to its customers' wants, to merit and receive its share of such patronage.

The BAY PORT MERCANTILE COMPANY is a co-partnership, composed of W. J. ORR, W. H. WALLACE and W L. WEBBER. Mr. ORR will give his exclusive attention to the business, as managing partner.

W. J. ORR,
W. H. WALLACE,
W. L. WEBBER.

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Wild Fowl Bay.

"These lovely shores! how lone and still
A hundred years ago!
The unbroken forest stood above,
The waters dashed below,—
The waters of a lonely sea,
Where never sail was furled,
Embosomed in a wilderness,
Which was itself a world."

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For a summer resort there is probably no place in the region of the Great Lakes which possesses so many and such varied points of attraction as Wild Fowl Bay, upon the western side of the Huron Peninsula, in Lake Huron. A map of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan very closely resembles the form of a mitten, the Huron Peninsula forming the thumb. This "thumb" is a semi-circular body of land lying mostly within the county of Huron. The peninsula is fifty miles in width at its base and extends thirty miles northward into the beautiful pure blue waters of Lake Huron. That part of the lake which bounds the peninsula upon the west is known as Saginaw Bay, and separates the thumb from the hand of the mitten, the bay being about twenty-five miles in width. Upon the eastern side of Saginaw Bay, and forming a part of it, lies Wild Fowl Bay, a beautiful sheet of water, some five miles in length and four miles in width, bounded on the

east by the main land of the Huron Peninsula, on the north by Sand Point (a narrow strip of land four miles in length), and protected by North Island on the west and Heisterman Island on the south-west. It is almost an inland lake, but has the important advantage of forming a part of the Great Lakes outside, whose clear, pure waters flow in and out with every changing wind.

Nature seems to have designed the spot as a place for rest and recreation. Almost surrounded by the waters of the Great Lakes, and yet shut in from their tumultuous winds and waves, it is a secure, delightful place for sailing, rowing, hunting and fishing. Near the shore the water is shallow, and the bottom has a covering of soft, white sand, making it an excellent bathing-ground. The shores of the bay are fringed with beautiful groves of evergreens and deciduous trees. Numerous wild fowl are found during the autumn, and afford fine sport for the hunter.

BAY PORT HOTEL AND SURROUNDINGS—FROM THE BAY.

❋❋ The Bay Port Hotel. ❋❋

The natural advantages of Wild Fowl Bay as a summer resort, and its many charming features, have long been known and appreciated. It was the favorite home and hunting ground of the Chippewa Indians, long before the white man's eye beheld it. But it was not until the year 1884 that any real effort was made to develope the place and provide accommodation for the public. In that year the Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron railroad was extended to Wild Fowl Bay, connecting it with East Saginaw, about fifty miles southward, and the "Island Club" erected a club-house on Heisterman Island. Hon. Wm. L. Webber, of East Saginaw, President of the Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron Railroad Company, bought a tract of land on the shore, divided a portion of it into village lots, and in the fall of 1885 commenced the erection of an elegant and commodious hotel, which was completed, furnished and opened to the public in June, 1886. There had long been a postoffice and a few houses near the site of the hotel, and the place had been known as "Bay Port" for more than fifteen years.

The Bay Port Hotel (as the new hotel is called) is situated upon the high banks of Wild Fowl Bay, a few hundred yards east of the railroad

station. It overlooks the bay, "Sand Point" and the islands. The hotel is constructed in a very substantial manner. Its foundation walls are of stone, and rest upon the solid rock, some four feet below the surface of the ground. The remainder of the building—three stories in height above the basement—is of wood, with good brick chimneys, and is lathed and plastered throughout. The inside finish is red oak. In the basement—a high and roomy apartment—are the laundry, refrigerator and furnace rooms. In the latter are located two large "Smead" warm-air furnaces, for use in chilly weather. Numerous open fires add to the cheerfulness of the various rooms when the weather happens to be disagreeable outside. From the main entrance hall a wide, easy stairway leads to the second floor. Upon one side of the hall is the ladies' parlor, with the dining-room in the rear, both looking out upon the bay. Upon the other side is the waiting room, and beyond that are the gentlemen's smoking-room and the billiard-room. The second and third stories are divided into large, airy, well-ventilated chambers, most of which have connecting doors, so that two or more of them may be thrown together, *en suite*. A wide veranda encircles the building upon three sides, affording a delightful place during the hot summer days, with the beautiful waters of the bay and the islands in the distance, upon one side, and delightful open groves upon the other. Good sail-boats, manned by experienced sailors, can be had at small expense,

BAY PORT HOTEL—SOUTHWEST VIEW.

and row-boats are supplied in abundance at the boat-house near by. The waters adjacent to the hotel have been thoroughly cleared of all rubbish and drift-wood, and enclosed by cribs and boom-sticks

Upon the shore near the hotel is also to be found a bath-house well supplied with bathing suits. There is a bowling-alley with two excellent, hard maple roll-ways, and ample room for players and spectators. Surrounding the hotel are delightful groves of evergreens and other forest trees, which have been underbrushed and trimmed to allow free circulation of the air and permit a full view of the bay. The delicious aroma of the pine trees has a remarkably soothing effect upon the nervous system, and hay-fever patients find the same relief here as at Petoskey and other lake points.

The furniture of the hotel is entirely new, and of the very best quality; and no pains have been spared to make the house first-class in all its appointments. Mr. D. H. Webster, the manager, has had a large hotel experience. He is ably assisted by his wife in the management of the house, and the comfort of the guests receives every possible consideration.

It is the expectation that summer cottages will be erected at Bay Port by those desiring a more homelike retreat, meals and other accommodations being furnished by the hotel. For this purpose the lots of the Bay Port village plat are offered at very reasonable prices. A condition is imposed in the

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sale of these lots, that certain sanitary restrictions shall be observed, insuring the continued healthfulness of the locality.

There are two passenger trains each way daily, on the Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron railroad, and telegraphic communication with the outside world is supplied at the railroad station.

The Bay Port Hotel is, above all else, a quiet, restful, and homelike place. Many of the summer resorts upon the Great Lakes are quite uncomfortable and unpleasant in stormy or chilly weather, for want of proper heating arrangements. At the Bay Port Hotel this difficulty is entirely overcome; and when the weather is unfavorable for outside sports and amusements cheerful open fires, music, reading and indoor games make life pleasant and agreeable. The hotel can furnish accommodation for one hundred guests, but its capacity can be indefinitely increased by the building of cottages and sleeping apartments, as the dining room and culinary department can furnish ample accommodations for five hundred guests.

Charges for accommodations at the Bay Port Hotel are moderate. Special rates are made to families and for board by the week. For full information, address D. H. Webster, Manager, Bay Port, Huron County, Michigan.

BAY PORT QUARRIES.

The Bay Port Quarries & Lime Kilns.

The Bay Port Quarries are situated about three miles from the Hotel, on section five, in the township of Winsor (township sixteen north of range ten east), in Huron county, about fifty miles northeasterly from East Saginaw by the railroad, and about eighteen miles distant from Bad Axe. This quarry has been tested by the diamond drill to the depth of one hundred feet. The surface of the rock is forty-eight feet above the level of the bay, three miles distant. The upper sixteen feet consists of limestone suitable for burning into lime and for building stone, and also a superior quality for the making of Telford–McAdam pavements. The lime burned from this stone is what is known as a hot lime, requires a very large amount of water to slake it properly, and creates so much heat in the slaking process that to work it properly requires that it should be slaked and become cool before it is mixed up for plastering and other work, in order to secure best results.

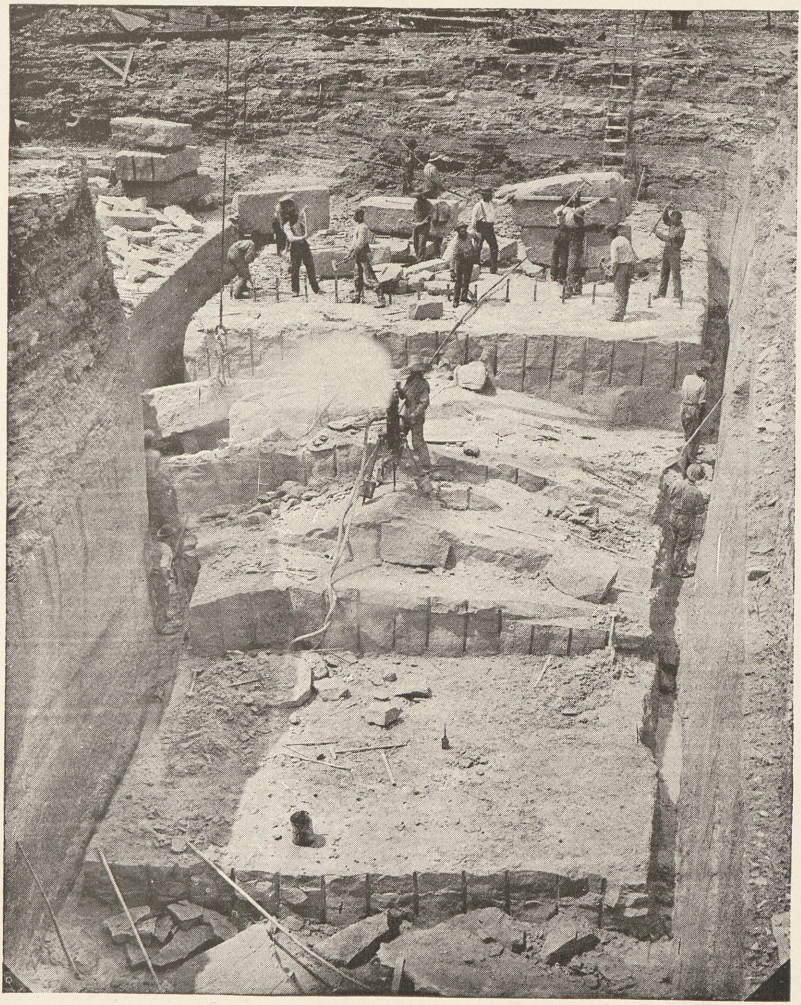
Being so easy of access to the cities of the Saginaw Valley, the opening of this quarry has proved a great benefit to them, as their lime and

building stone heretofore came mostly from Ohio and the islands of Lake Erie. The Ohio limestone, as a rule, is soft and not suitable for road-making. The Bay Port stone is so much in the nature of cement that it will pack and cement itself together under travel, instead of working up into a fine dust, as is the case with soft limestones. With the facilities so near at hand, no reason exists why the principal highways of the Saginaw Valley should not become stone-roads, useful not only to the generations building them but to those who will follow.

Below the sixteen feet of limestone in the quarry is found about twenty feet of coarse sandstone, which has not yet been worked sufficient to speak positively concerning its most valuable uses. But it is believed that it will prove of value for construction purposes. Below this sandstone there is thirteen feet of a very fine grained limestone below which there is about fifty feet of blue shale, as far as the drill extended.

These quarries and kilns are operated by the Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron Railroad Company. There are four lime kilns in operation, and the quarries sent out, from the 13th of April to the 12th of May, 1887, 12,000 bushels of lime, 310 cords of stone for building purposes and 552 car-loads of strippings and refuse used in ballasting and filling along the track of the railroad.

A single fact will illustrate the value to the cities of the Valley of the opening of this railroad



BAY PORT QUARRIES—FORTY FEET DEEP.

and these quarries. Before they were opened the price of rubble-stone, for building purposes, ranged from ten to twelve dollars per cord, and lime was selling at twenty-five to thirty cents per bushel. Since their opening the price of stone has been reduced to six dollars a cord, and lime to sixteen cents a bushel. The city of East Saginaw uses annually in construction, probably, seventy-five thousand bushels of lime and 5,000 cords of stone. The cheapening to East Saginaw alone of its building material thus amounts to the sum of $30,000.00 annually, and to the other cities in like proportion.

Heisterman Island & the Island Club.

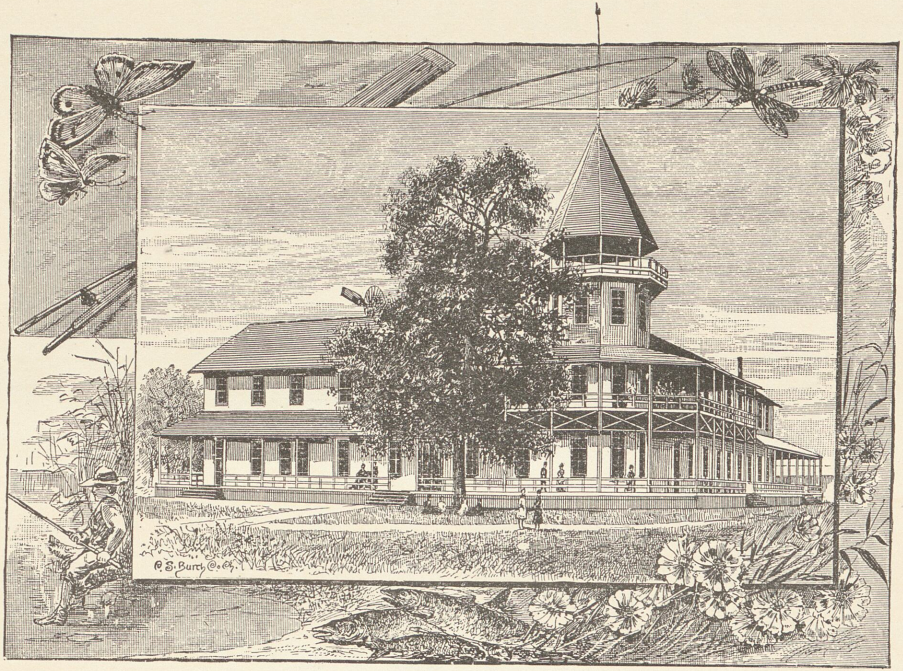
Heisterman Island, located in Saginaw Bay three-and-a-half miles west of Bay Port, is an island containing about four hundred acres, which was purchased from the United States by the Hon. Carl Heisterman, in 1850, and upon which he resided with his family until 1883, at which time it was purchased by an association organized for that purpose and known as the "Island Club." This club is composed of between one and two hundred citizens of the Valley, although membership is open to all approved applicants. The terms of membership are easy. The island has been improved by the laying out of walks, lawns, etc. It has a club house furnishing sleeping accommodation for seventy-five guests, with large dining room capacity. There have been already erected fourteen cottages. The shore of the island affords fine facilities for bathing, and to those who enjoy sailing and fishing no better place can be found. We give a cut of the Club House upon the opposite page.

The officers of the Club are as follows:

D. Shannon, President, Bay City, Mich.
Fred. C. Zimmermann, Secretary, East Saginaw, Mich.
Frank Lawrence, Treasurer, East Saginaw, Mich.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

D. Shannon.	A. T. Bliss.	Jas. Stewart.
Emil Moores.	Sewell Avery.	Henry C. Potter, Jr.
Geo. B. Morley.	Ezra Richardson.	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Bay Port Pic-nic Grounds.

A BRANCH track has been extended north to the shore west of the dock at Bay Port for the purpose of running trains containing pic-nic parties to the grounds set apart exclusively for their use. These grounds have a shore line of 1,600 feet, with shady groves immediately adjoining the beach. To guard against discomfort from storms a building one hundred feet long and eighteen feet wide, with open sides, provided with tables and benches. has been erected, and other conveniences provided, Pic-nic parties can leave East Saginaw, on the Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron railroad, in the morning, and after a two-hours run find themselves upon these beautiful grounds. Remaining through the day, a two hours' run again brings them home, refreshed and invigorated. A day on the beach is better than medicine, and pleasanter to take.